

Memorial Day Ceremony honors Virginia's fallen

Virginians from all branches of the Armed Forces who gave their lives in service to their country were remembered at the Commonwealth's Memorial Day Ceremony at the Virginia War Memorial May 27, 2019, in Richmond, Virginia. Ten Virginia National Guard Soldiers have been killed by hostile enemy action since Sept. 11, 2001, and they are among the 11,479 fallen Virginians recognized at the memorial.

"We are gathered here to honor and remember the brave men and women who made the ultimate sacrifice while defending our nation," said Virginia Governor Ralph Northam. "In every one of our nation's wars, Virginians have been among the first to answer the call. Freedom is never free, and on Memorial Day, we are all reminded of the human cost to protect our freedoms."

Northam and Secretary of Veterans and Defense Affairs Carlos Hopkins placed the Commonwealth of Virginia wreath at the Eternal Flame in the Shrine of Memory to pay tribute to all fallen Virginians. Maj. Gen. Timothy P. Williams and Command Sgt. Maj. Ronald L. Smith placed a wreath honoring the Virginia National Guard's fallen Soldiers and Airmen.

Read more: <https://vanguard.dodlive.mil/2019/05/27/13172/>



Maj. Gen. Timothy P. Williams and Command Sgt. Maj. Ronald L. Smith place a wreath honoring the Virginia National Guard's fallen Soldiers and Airmen May 27, 2019, in Richmond, Virginia.

Virginia National Guard News Headlines

183rd RTI graduates 1st female infantry Soldiers

For the first time in the history of the Virginia National Guard's 183rd Regiment, Regional Training Institute, women were among the graduates of the 11B Infantry Transition Course. Five female Soldiers were among 34 U.S. Army National Guard and Reserve Soldiers who earned their blue cord May 18, 2019.

Read more: <https://vanguard.dodlive.mil/2019/05/21/13210/>

Virginia Department of Military Affairs recognizes state employees

Virginia Department of Military Affairs employees were recognized for their service at luncheons May 22, 2019, at the State Military Reservation in Virginia Beach, Virginia, and May 9, 2019, at Fort Pickett.

Read more: <https://vanguard.dodlive.mil/2019/05/23/13228/>

1710th TC teams with aviators for MEDEVAC exercise

Virginia National Guard Soldiers assigned to the Emporia-based 1710th Transportation Company conducted medical evacuation operations during their annual training May 15-16, 2019, at Fort Pickett, Virginia.

Read more: <https://vanguard.dodlive.mil/2019/05/22/13121/>

Special response force passes key readiness inspection

The Richmond-based 34th Chemical, Biological, Radiological, Nuclear and high-yield Explosive Enhanced Response Force Package scored 95% on a National Guard Bureau inspection May 23, 2019.

Read more: <https://vanguard.dodlive.mil/2019/05/24/13170/>

Join the Virginia Army National Guard, Virginia Air National Guard or the Virginia Defense Force

For information about joining the Virginia Army National Guard, the Virginia Air National Guard or Virginia Defense Force, visit the appropriate link below:

Va. Army National Guard

<http://nationalguard.com/va>

Va. Air National Guard

<https://www.192fw.ang.af.mil/join>

Va. Defense Force

<http://vdf.virginia.gov/joinvdf/>

1945th Contracting Team departs for overseas mission

Family members, friends, fellow Soldiers and Virginia National Guard senior leaders gathered to bid a formal farewell to the Soldiers of the Virginia Beach-based 1945th Contracting Team, 329th Regional Support Group, as they began federal active duty May 25, 2019, at the State Military Reservation in Virginia Beach. The ceremony included remarks from Maj. Gen. Timothy P. Williams, the Adjutant General of Virginia, Col. Doyle Gillis, the commander of the 329th RSG, and Maj. Nate Seymour, the commander of the 1945th CT.

"As citizen Soldiers of the commonwealth you have a long, storied tradition and heritage to live up to," Williams said. "This great brigade has proven itself time and time again, sending Soldiers out the door ready and willing to serve their nation. You are no different. Thank you for your hard work."

"These men and women have trained for between 10 months and a year, full time, for this very vital mission," Gillis said. "These folks are well prepared. They trained hard. They trained long. They're ready."

The five-Soldier team will travel to Texas for training before heading to the U.S. Central Command area of responsibility where they will support all Army contracting in the region.

A contracting team is a five-person unit that can provide contracting support for deployed units, acquiring goods and services from the commercial sector, stateside or overseas.

"Some of us will serve as administrative contract officers to manage large contracts such as LOGCAP [Logistics Civil Augmentation Program] and HL8 [Heavy Lift 8]," explained Seymour. "Others on our team will be quality assurance specialists who will ensure that the government receives the goods and services that are required."

The Soldiers of the 1945th have a wide variety of experience and training and all the unit members have worked hard to fulfill the extensive training and experience requirements of this highly-specialized career field, according to Seymour.

Over the past year the five Soldiers have spent countless hours away from their families in order to conduct training for their deployment.

"All deploying Soldiers are required to have at least a year of full-time contracting experience," Seymour explained. "This is a difficult requirement for those of us that aren't government acquisition employees."

As a result, Seymour and two other Soldiers left their civilian jobs last year in order to gain contracting experience for this deployment. While Seymour served full time at Fort Belvoir, Staff Sgt. Tina Jaurequi and Sgt. Kayla Modic spent the past year working at the Norfolk Naval Shipyard.

Maj. Shyra Cullins and Sgt. 1st Class Steve Slater gained valuable contracting experience through their civilian careers at the Defense Logistics Agency.

"This was a long, slow torturous route to get to today," Williams said. "So this is a big milestone and we're very proud of all of you."



Soldiers assigned to the Virginia Beach-based 1945th Contracting Team bid farewell to friends and family at a departure ceremony May 25, 2019, at the State Military Reservation in Virginia Beach, Virginia.

The 1945th CT obtained federal recognition July 21, 2009, and previously deployed to Afghanistan in 2014.

The 1945th CT is one of two contracting teams in the Virginia Army National Guard. The 1940th CT is also based in Virginia Beach..

Read more: <https://vanguard.dodlive.mil/2019/05/28/13146/>

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Photos: Secretary Hopkins visits Winchester STARBASE

<https://www.flickr.com/photos/vanguardpao/albums/72157708837417893>

Photos: Monihan takes command of 123rd CPB

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Photos: Normandy Soldiers conduct STX lane

<https://www.flickr.com/photos/vanguardpao/albums/72157708675463554>

Virginia War Memorial on Facebook

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183rd Regiment, Regional Training Institute on Facebook

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